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Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. This fourth report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), in which the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolution by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The report covers the period 20 May to 17 June 2014. The information contained in the report is based on the data available to the United Nations actors on the ground and reports from open sources and sources of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

II. Major developments

A. Political/military

3. Severe levels of violence were ongoing during the reporting period, with intensified use of barrel bombs by Government forces against civilian populations reported in certain areas, such as the Bustan al-Qasr neighbourhood in eastern Aleppo City, and the continuation of mortar attacks against residential neighbourhoods by armed opposition forces. Extremist groups continued to carry out suicide attacks, executions and other acts of terrorism. Fighting between armed opposition groups and extremist forces continued in northern and north-eastern Syrian Arab Republic. Collectively these attacks caused thousands of deaths, injuries and the displacement of civilians throughout the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular Aleppo, Dar'a, Idlib, Rif Dimashq and Deir ez-Zor governorates.

4. In Aleppo, hundreds of civilians, including women and children, have allegedly been killed since the beginning of May 2014. Heavy fighting continued at front lines in north-west Aleppo city and around key supply routes in rural Aleppo. Analysis of satellite imagery by Human Rights Watch shows continued heavy air and ground bombardment by Government forces on opposition-held districts in the city of Aleppo between 23 May and 6 June 2014. The majority of the 130 major damage sites identified by Human Rights Watch are strongly consistent with air strikes and specifically the impact of barrel bombs dropped from helicopters, striking predominantly residential neighbourhoods. The impact on civilians and

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infrastructure has been severe. On 28 May, for example, more than 40 people, including women and children, were killed as a result of air raids using barrel bombs over areas under opposition control in eastern Aleppo city.

5. In Dar'a, intensification of aerial bombardment during the reporting period by Government forces displaced at least 2,000 people and reportedly killed approximately 160 civilians, including some 65 women and children. Hundreds of barrel bombs were dropped on Dar'a during May. On 22 May, three mortars landed on a tent hosting a pro-government election rally in the Al Matar neighbourhood of Dar'a city, resulting in 43 people killed and many injured.

6. In Rif Dimashq, ongoing aerial bombardment and shelling around the opposition-held eastern Ghouta town of Al Mleiha led to a large displacement of the civilian population; of the estimated 20,000 people who were living in Al Mleiha, only 5,000 remain at most. The intensified use of barrel bombs was reported in Khan al-Shih area, causing civilian casualties and massive infrastructure damage.

7. An escalation of fighting between Government and opposition forces in eastern and western rural Deir ez-Zor led to the closure of road access into and out of Deir ez-Zor city, resulting in shortages of food and fuel supplies. This included an intensification of shelling, particularly on Deir ez-Zor city neighbourhoods under control of the Free Syrian Army. Infighting between opposition groups also intensified, as the Islamic State in Iraq and Al Sham (ISIS) gained ground in the east of the governorate, causing approximately 125,000 residents to flee to Al Mayadeen and surrounding villages.

8. Heavy fighting also continued in Idlib around key front lines, and several opposition-held villages in the western rural part of the governorate sustained shelling and air strikes. On 7 June, the Bab al-Hawa area hospital in the Harim district was reportedly targeted by two rockets.

9. The United Nations remains unable to provide a verified assessment of the presence and activity of non-Syrian fighters on a nationwide scale. On 25 May, a citizen of the United States of America was involved in a suicide bombing in the Syrian Arab Republic. Following the incident, the United States underscored its concern about the flow of foreign fighters into and out of the Syrian Arab Republic and emphasized that they were working with key partner Governments in a focused outreach effort to address this issue. During the reporting period, ISIS expanded its operations across Syrian and Iraqi borders, reportedly bolstered by a number of foreign fighters. The recent advancement of ISIS in Iraq is expected to have a direct impact on the eastern governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic, including Deir ez-Zor and Ar Raqqah, and may strengthen the presence of extremist groups in ISIS-controlled areas of the Syrian Arab Republic.

10. There was no progress made towards the implementation of the Geneva Communiqué during the reporting period. On 3 June, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic held presidential elections, in which no opposition candidate ran. The elections were held outside the framework of the Geneva process.

B. Human rights

11. During the reporting period, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to receive reports of arbitrary

arrest and detention, torture and ill treatment, allegedly perpetrated by members of the Syrian security apparatus, including military intelligence, political security, State security and air force intelligence. OHCHR received information indicating that, between 22 May and 2 June, 11 detainees died as a result of torture in several Government-run detention facilities in Hama, including at the Air Force Intelligence Branch and Deir Shmayel Detention Centre. The Government has yet to put in place a mechanism to investigate serious and credible allegations of torture. This is of particular concern when large numbers of men, women and children are thought to be held in detention facilities across the country amid consistent and ongoing reports of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

12. On 22 May, Syrian armed forces entered Aleppo Central Prison, breaking through the siege imposed by several armed opposition groups, including Ahrar al-Sham and Jabhat al-Nusra, since mid-2013. The Government regained control over the whole prison complex. During the last week of May, the entire prison population, amounting to an estimated 2,500 inmates, was reportedly transferred to alternate makeshift places of detention in the city, primarily al-Wahda School and Ibn Khaldoun Hospital. Information obtained by OHCHR indicates that conditions in these places of detention continue to be inhumane.

13. On 24 May, 53 political detainees who had been held by the Syrian authorities prior to 2011 were transferred from the prison. As at 9 June, families of the detainees had not received any information on the location or conditions of detention of these 53 men, raising concerns for their safety. Those transferred from the prison included approximately 150 detainees who were arrested by security forces in connection with anti-government protests since 2011. Many of the detainees were reportedly not brought before a judge or afforded defence counsel at any stage during their detention. On 4 June, the Government released approximately 300 prisoners from Central Aleppo Prison, who had been arbitrarily detained after having already served their sentences.

14. On 9 June, President Bashar al-Assad issued Legislative Decree 22 of 2014, granting a general amnesty for crimes committed before 9 June. According to the Syrian news agency, the decree stipulates that some sentences will be reduced, such as death penalties to life imprisonment. It further provides that some sentences will be commuted, including the entire duration of the sentence for prisoners with terminal illnesses and for those aged over 70 years. The amnesty also applies to foreigners who entered the Syrian Arab Republic "with the purpose of joining a terrorist group or committing a terrorist act" if they present themselves to the Government within a month, as well as to army deserters. Unverified reports at the governorate level suggest that by 15 June at least 860 prisoners were released under this amnesty.

15. On 29 May, at least 15 civilians, including 7 women and 3 children, were allegedly killed by armed opposition groups in the town of Teliliye in Al Hasakeh governorate. The killing occurred during fighting between ISIS and People's Protection Units (Yekîneyên Parastina Gel, YPG) to gain control of the area. Dozens of combatants on both sides were also reportedly killed. Internet-based footage depicted images of bodies of women and children lined up on the ground after apparently having been shot, suggesting that they were massacred. According to activists interviewed by OHCHR, all 15 of the deceased were internally displaced

persons, who had fled violence in Aleppo. Both ISIS and YPG have accused one another of perpetrating the massacre.

16. On 21 May, Jabhat al-Nusra reportedly executed three ISIS combatants captured that day in clashes around Al Tewamiya in Deir ez-Zor governorate.

17. Internet-based footage and photographs appear to depict Mohammad Mohammad, a 26-year-old man, being beheaded on 23 May by ISIS combatants in the town of Al Shuyouk in Hasakeh governorate. Activists who knew the victim report that he was not a combatant. According to information received by OHCHR, he was among a number of people, including women, captured on 23 May at an ISIS checkpoint outside the village of Jubb al-Faraj, Al Hasakeh. No information has been received by OHCHR on the fate of the others captured.

18. On 30 May, while on the road to Ein al-Arab, Aleppo, over 200 civilians, the majority of them high school students, were allegedly abducted by ISIS combatants. The students were reportedly on their way home from the city of Al Bab, Aleppo, where they had sat school examinations. The same day, ISIS released approximately 125 female students. As at 9 June, more than 100 male students reportedly continued to be held by ISIS.

19. Four videos posted on the Internet on 30 May, purportedly by armed opposition groups, depict 54 hostages, all women and children, allegedly being held in Idlib since their capture by armed opposition groups on 4 August 2013, during an attack on a village in northern Ladhiqiyah. Some 40 other hostages, also captured during the same attack, were released by armed groups on 7 and 8 May. According to activists in northern Ladhiqiyah, at least 100 more civilians remain unaccounted for since the attack.

20. During the reporting period, the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR and United Nations human rights mechanisms, including special procedures mandate holders, continued to be denied access to the Syrian Arab Republic.

C. Humanitarian access

21. The humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic has further deteriorated. Latest estimates indicate that the number of people in need has now reached 10.8 million, an increase of 17 per cent (or 1.5 million), approximately 6.4 million of whom are internally displaced. The current estimate of 3.5 million people residing in areas that are difficult or impossible for humanitarian actors to reach has also risen, likely to be up to 4.7 million people. For the purpose of this report, all monitoring figures are based on 3.5 million. This includes at least 241,000 people who live in areas that are besieged by either Government or opposition forces.

22. There has been no improvement in achieving sustained humanitarian access to all people in need within the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular those in hard-to-reach areas. New Government truck-sealing procedures introduced in April failed to improve the reach of humanitarian aid, and in fact resulted in fewer people being reached in May. The Government subsequently imposed additional clearance requirements, further undermining access to people in desperate need of assistance. By 9 June, only 12 per cent of the planned 4.25 million people in the World Food

Programme (WFP) food dispatch plan were reached in comparison to 26 per cent at the same time in April.

23. While deliveries of chlorine in all 14 governorates benefited 16.5 million people with clean water, other critical types of humanitarian assistance, including food, have not been allowed consistent entry to hard-to-reach areas. WFP delivered food assistance to nearly 3.3 million people across all 14 governorates in May, but overall during the reporting period assistance reached only 33 (or 12.6 per cent) of the 262 locations identified as being hard to reach or besieged. This included food and nutrition assistance provided by WFP, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to 348,819 people (10 per cent of 3.5 million); and non-food items for 268,960 people (7.7 per cent of 3.5 million).

24. Eight opposition groups[a] have signed a declaration of commitments in which they declared to respect and uphold fundamental humanitarian principles, abide by international humanitarian law and commit to facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Six of the groups signed within the reporting period.

Besieged areas

25. Approximately 241,000 people remain besieged; 196,000 in areas that are besieged by Government forces in Madamiyet Elsham, eastern Ghouta, Darayya and Yarmouk, and 45,000 in areas besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra.

26. During the reporting period, United Nations assistance only reached two besieged communities: Yarmouk and Douma. Food was delivered to 2,467 people, or 1 per cent, and non-food items to 17,204 people, or 7 per cent of people in these besieged areas. UNICEF also distributed nutritional assistance to 3,600 beneficiaries in Douma in the form of fortified spread and cartons of High Energy Biscuits.

27. Eastern Ghouta: 150,000 people remain besieged in eastern Ghouta. On 24 May, a convoy to Douma was approved with reduced amounts of relief supplies. Food and non-food items were delivered to 2,000 people and medicines for 22,600 people. In addition UNICEF provided nutrition assistance to 3,600 beneficiaries and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to 2,000 beneficiaries; 27,346 beneficiaries did not receive surgical items that had been prepared for delivery, while critical medicines for another 27,435 people were reported absent from the final convoy. While on the ground, the team observed a noticeable deterioration in the humanitarian situation since their last mission on 29 March, in particular with regard to health, nutrition and water. Hundreds of civilians gather daily at Government checkpoints but continue to be barred from exiting the area.

28. Madamiyet Elsham: 20,000 people remain besieged in Madamiyet Elsham. Since 1 January 2014, the United Nations has submitted 12 requests for Government authorization to access Madamiyet Elsham through inter-agency convoys. Out of those, four requests were approved, one was denied in writing and all the others remain unanswered. Despite the approval of four inter-agency convoys, thus far none of the attempts have resulted in the successful delivery of any humanitarian assistance inside Madamiyet Elsham because of Government refusals to allow

[a] Mujahadeen Army (7 June); Idlib Military Council (5 June); 101 Infantry Division (5 June); Fursan al-Haqq, Idlib (5 June); Hizm Movement (27 May); Jabhat al-Asali wa al-Tanmiya (21 May); Syria Revolutionaries Front (14 April); and PYD (23 April).

convoys to proceed. Madamiyet Elsham has not been reached with assistance since October 2012, except for polio vaccinations.

29. Yarmouk: 18,000 people remain besieged in Yarmouk. UNRWA was permitted to conduct distributions on nine days, delivering 350 food parcels — enough for 467 people for one month — and 3,801 hygiene kits for 15,204 people, during the reporting period. The Syrian authorities continue to refuse to authorize UNRWA to dispatch and distribute medical supplies in Yarmouk, with the exception of small quantities of rehydration salts, mineral supplements, vitamins and polio vaccines.

30. Darayya: An estimated 8,000 people in Darayya have been besieged by pro-Government forces since November 2012. Preliminary negotiations for a cessation of hostilities agreement in Darayya are ongoing, but significant differences remain between the parties. Increased hostilities and heavy shelling, including the reported use of barrel bombs, have taken place in Darayya over the past month. Darayya was last assisted in January 2013.

31. Nubul and Zahra: 45,000 people remain besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra. Following the successful convoy to the two towns on 8 May, a two-month convoy plan has been approved by the Governor of Aleppo. Written approval by the Governor was received only for the first month.

Cross-border assistance

32. There has been no development since the United Nations sought the consent of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2014 to use additional border crossings in order to facilitate greater access to those in need in hard-to-reach areas.

Free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

33. The delivery of urgently required medicines and medical supplies continued to be obstructed during the reporting period, the most significant obstacle being the decision by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to prohibit the delivery of specific life-saving supplies as a matter of policy. This, combined with insecurity and other bureaucratic obstacles, has meant that the overall delivery of supplies is only a fraction of what is required and there is a very uneven distribution between Government and opposition-controlled areas, the latter receiving only 25 per cent of the quantities distributed in the first three months of 2014.

34. Medicines and medical equipment continued to be removed from World Health Organization (WHO) convoys entering opposition-controlled areas. In some cases, even prior to the submission of distribution lists for opposition-controlled areas, WHO had been warned by local or national authorities that if plans included injectable or surgical items, the required approvals would not be granted. Once plans are approved, convoys are then subjected to additional checks prior to departure by national security officials, at which stage medicines approved by central authorities are further removed. During a recent inter-agency convoy to Homs, for example, medicines (mainly antibiotics) were removed from the convoy traveling to the hard-to-reach area of Ar Rastan. That meant that 2,116 beneficiaries were denied urgently needed medicines. Many of the same medicines were allowed into Government-controlled areas on the same day.

35. Physicians for Human Rights reported that 29 medical personnel were killed during May, the highest number in a month since the start of the conflict, bringing

their total number of recorded deaths of medical personnel to 502. Of the 29 medical personnel, 27 were killed by actions of Government forces and 2 by opposition armed groups: 16 were killed by shelling and bombing, 8 by torture and 4 from shooting; and 1 was executed by ISIS. Physicians for Human Rights has also corroborated 153 attacks on 127 different medical facilities since the start of the war, including 3 hospitals in April 2014. All three hospitals attacked in April were hit by barrel bombs — two in Aleppo city and one in Dar'a.

36. Final results for the May polio immunization round indicate that over 2.8 million children under five years were reached during the campaign in all of the country's 14 governorates. The lowest reported coverage, in Rif Dimashq (86.4 per cent) and Deir ez-Zor (75.4 per cent), was due to the deteriorating security situations in those governorates. The overall coverage was 97.4 per cent of the target population.

Administrative procedures

37. The Government's new truck-sealing procedures improved the security of the cargo by helping to prevent petty pilferage at checkpoints. However, considerable delays were experienced during the first two weeks of May, when the new mechanism was rolled out. On 29 May, a streamlined facilitation letter for regular programming was agreed and circulated by the Government. The new procedures do not apply to deliveries of medical supplies or to humanitarian deliveries of assistance to opposition and contested areas, all of which must be negotiated on ad hoc basis. In mid-June, challenges were still being encountered at checkpoints and security personnel in charge of monitoring the sealing process failed to be present at warehouses in a number of instances (for example, Kiswah), despite the fact that the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator had submitted an updated list of all United Nations and international non-government organizations' warehouses.

38. These new procedures resulted in reduced access overall, but particularly in the health sector, leading to significant delays in the distribution of supplies required to respond to disease outbreaks for which advance planning cannot be carried out. Previous approval procedures, applied through the Ministry of Health, are no longer accepted at Government checkpoints, and new requirements for additional approval letters, truck sealing and Government oversight are not consistently applied. In early June, WHO requested the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to exempt health items from the new procedures applied to aid delivery.

39. The Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has since indicated its intent to introduce additional clearance procedures for regular programme deliveries, including a requirement that approvals for all United Nations deliveries be made under a unified monthly plan submitted by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator. On 29 May, the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated that a new facilitation letter would be required for customs procedures. The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator submitted a note verbale on 13 June clarifying that a unified plan was not feasible, that the Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan is the framework for the humanitarian response, and that additional facilitation letters for supplies imported into the Syrian Arab Republic would cause delays and additional financial burdens for agencies.

40. The Ministry of Social Affairs also informed governors that as of immediate effect, all convoys or missions to opposition and contested areas will now require the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Relief Committee and the National Security Office. Prior to this, in line with the Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan strategy, in areas where hubs are approved, the governors were delegated to coordinate and authorize delivery of assistance within their respective governorates, including across lines of conflict. The High Relief Committee and the National Security Office have not previously been involved in providing facilitation letters at any level. These new restrictions, if enforced, will result in lengthier, rather than reduced, approval processes.

41. As at 11 June, a total of 82 United Nations visas or renewal requests remained pending, 40 within the 15 working day limit and 42 exceeding the 15 working days. There has been no progress in obtaining visas for international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with 13 visa requests still pending.

42. During the reporting period, two additional national non-governmental organizations were approved to work with United Nations agencies by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and one was removed from the list. The number of national non-governmental organizations currently authorized to partner directly with the United Nations is now 85, working through 142 national branches.

Safety and security of staff and premises

43. Deteriorating security and direct attacks on aid workers continued during the reporting period, most notably on 24 May, when a warehouse run by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in Douma was attacked while the United Nations team was present. One SARC driver was injured and several civilians were killed. During the reporting period a SARC special needs project office was also shelled, killing 1 SARC volunteer.

44. Twenty-nine United Nations staff (27 UNRWA and 2 UNDP) are currently detained, of which four are missing.

Observations

45. Every month I report to the Council the thousands of people killed, displaced and traumatized by aerial bombardments, mortar attacks, kidnappings and executions, many in densely populated areas. Even children traveling for school exams, perhaps the most poignant display of hope in the midst of this relentless war, are not exempt from the violent and indiscriminate actions of the parties. Arbitrary arrests, torture in detention and attacks on hospitals and health-care workers continue and are part of the everyday fabric of life of many Syrians. But they should not be. As I have said to this Council before, there are rules that govern the conduct of war, and these rules are being flagrantly violated every day.

46. I am particularly concerned that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, a signatory to the Charter of the United Nations, continues to indiscriminately drop hundreds of barrel bombs on defenceless men, women and children in populated neighbourhoods. I am equally concerned at the relentless and indiscriminate use of mortar and shelling of residential neighbourhoods by armed opposition groups. These actions are flagrant violations of international law. The deliberate targeting of civilians is a war crime.

47. Efforts to expand humanitarian assistance to those most in need have been met with continued delays and obstruction. Continued insecurity and the absence of agreements between parties that could facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance have played their part in this delay, as has the refusal by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to ease the bureaucratic obstacles imposed on humanitarian work. Far from improving access, new procedures rolled out two months ago have resulted in more delays and have reduced the reach of humanitarian partners further. Revised clearance measures now being proposed by the Government will only solidify that trend. I remind the parties to this conflict that their obligation to allow and facilitate access for humanitarian assistance is not negotiable. It is demanded by the Security Council, by international humanitarian law and by the most basic commitment to human decency shared by millions of people across the world. United Nations agencies and their partners must be allowed rapid and unhindered access to all Syrians in need.

48. It is inhumane and unlawful that medicines and medical supplies continue to be routinely prevented entry into opposition held areas, in clear violation of international humanitarian law. There is no possible justification for the official restrictions being imposed by the Government on surgical equipment and injectable. Tens of thousands of civilians are being arbitrarily denied urgent and life-saving medical care. The denial of basic and widely accepted humanitarian commodities is a deliberate tactic of war aimed at denying help and support to those most in need.

49. As stipulated by the Council in resolution 2139 (2014), humanitarian actors must be allowed to reach those in need by all routes available, both line and border crossings. As stated in my most recent report (S/2014/365), the United Nations is ready to put in place speedy, pragmatic and practical arrangements at critical border crossings to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid in accordance with assessed and established needs and the obligations under resolution 2139 (2014). Such arrangements would allow United Nations convoys to cross the border into the Syrian Arab Republic, in their own vehicles, without the need for specific permits or visas, to deliver urgently needed relief to people in need.

50. While the parties to this conflict are responsible for upholding their obligations under international law, the members of the Security Council and other Member States with influence can and must do more to demand that the violence end, that sieges are lifted and that vital humanitarian assistance reaches all areas of the country.

51. In my report of 22 May (S/2014/365), I informed the Council that the demands of resolution 2139 (2014) were not being heeded, and that the resolution had yet to make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of people.

52. I therefore call upon the Council, in the strongest terms, to honour the humanitarian imperative of saving lives and meeting urgent humanitarian needs, wherever they occur.

Annex

1. Protection of civilians[a]

Examples of attacks on civilian facilities (schools, hospitals, camps, places of worship)

Attacks on schools during the reporting period

- On 4 June, one mortar landed on the Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in Damascus. No casualties were reported.
- On 3 June, 3 civilians were killed and 25 allegedly injured as a result of three mortars landing in Dar'a city; one mortar landed on the Faculty of Education.
- On 29 May, local media reported that a grenade exploded in Zat al-Nitaqain School in the Al Nasera neighbourhood in Al Hasakeh city, causing material damage. No casualties were reported.
- On 29 May, ISIS kidnapped approximately 225 Kurdish students who were returning to opposition-held Ein al-Arab after completing their academic preparatory certificate examinations in Government-held areas of Aleppo city. Reports indicate that 125 female students were released on the same day, while more than 100 male students are still being held. The students were forced to undertake risky cross-line travel to sit the examinations, as the Government did not allow the students to take the examinations in Ein al-Arab.

Large-scale impact of conflict on public services

- The current education enrolment rate in the Syrian Arab Republic ranks as the second-worst in the world, with more than half of all school-age children (51.8 per cent) no longer attending school. The out-of-school rate reached above 90 per cent in Ar Raqqah and Aleppo and 68 per cent in Rif Dimashq.
- The conflict continued to disrupt health-care services, including dire shortages of essential medicines, supplies and health-care workers, especially those trained in emergency care. Hospitals and health-care facilities have been damaged in 12 of the country's 14 governorates, and they face an array of obstacles that severely affect their ability to function, including lack of fuel and electricity. Out of 97 Ministry of Health hospitals:
  - 47 per cent are reported as fully functioning; 30 per cent are reported as partially functioning; and 28 per cent are reported as not functioning at all
  - 71 per cent are accessible to people in need; 21 per cent are not accessible; and the status of accessibility for 7 per cent of hospitals is unknown
  - 62 per cent of ambulances have been damaged or destroyed.
- On 8 June, ISIS cut water and electricity to Deir ez-Zor.
- Following an explosion on 2 June, which damaged two main water pipelines, 1 million people were left without regular water supply in Baghdad Station,

[a] The United Nations has a distinct and regular mechanism of reporting on the six grave violations against children in armed conflict that has set verification standards and periodicity of reporting to identify trends.

Al Ashrafia, New and Old Al Seriyan and Old Aleppo in Aleppo governorate. SARC is negotiating with armed opposition groups in the area for its maintenance teams to gain access. It will take three weeks to repair the pipelines.

Economic impact of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic[b]

- Seventy-five per cent of Syrians live in poverty, with more than half of the population living in extreme poverty. Approximately 20 per cent of people live in "abject poverty", unable to meet basic food needs for their daily survival. Estimates indicate that one third of the population of Idlib and Deir ez-Zor lives below the "abject poverty" line, as does a quarter of the population of Aleppo and Dar'a.
- The economic loss from the conflict is estimated to be $143.6 billion, equivalent to 276 per cent of the national gross domestic product (GDP) in 2010. The current national GDP is estimated to be only one third of what it would have been in the absence of the conflict.

2. Safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need

Hard-to-reach areas

- Latest estimates indicate that the number of people located in "hard-to-reach" areas has risen from 3.5 million to 4.7 million.[c]
- Food assistance was provided to 348,799 people during the reporting period (318,105 by WFP and 20,447 by UNRWA). UNICEF provided nutritional supplies to 10,247 people.
- UNRWA distributed food assistance to 20,467 people in hard-to-reach areas during the reporting period (20,000 in Neirab and 467 in Yarmouk).
- Non-food items were provided to 268,960 people (7.7 per cent of 3.5 million) during the reporting period. From 20 May to 11 June, UNHCR provided 243,180 people with non-food assistance in hard-to-reach areas. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided 5,000 hygiene kits to 12,150 people in hard-to-reach areas, while UNICEF provided non-food items to 13,630 people in need.
- WHO distributed medicines and supplies for over 398,217 people in need in hard-to-reach or besieged areas.
- UNICEF reached 37,180 people with water, sanitation and hygiene items and 20,065 children with educational support in hard-to-reach areas.

[b] Syria Centre for Policy Research, Syria Squandering Humanity: Socioeconomic Monitoring Report on Syria, combined third and fourth quarter (July-December 2013), (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and United Nations Development Programme, May 2014).

[c] While latest estimates indicate that the number of people in "hard-to-reach" areas has increased, monitoring and reporting for the reporting period was completed on the basis of the 3.5 million figure. United Nations agencies will monitor and report against the 4.7 million figure from the next reporting period onwards.

- UNFPA distributed 11,844 female and 6,500 male dignity kits; and IOM provided 5,000 hygiene kits to 12,150 people in hard-to-reach areas.

Inter-agency convoys

- Three inter-agency convoys took place during the reporting period:
  - On 29 May 15 trucks delivered food assistance for nearly 30,000 people, non-food items for 10,000 people and medicines for 15,000 patients to the SARC warehouses in Orem al-Kubra in rural Aleppo. Syrian Arab Red Crescent sub-branches subsequently distributed the supplies in Orem al-Kubra, Afrin, Azaz and Tel Rifat.
  - On 28 May 20 trucks reached Ar Rastan (opposition-controlled) and 8 reached Akradisneh and Ein el-Nisr (Government areas), providing food and non-food items to 60,500 people and medical items for 48,270. Some medical items destined for Ar Rastan, which would have assisted an additional 2,116 people, were removed.
  - On 24 May a joint United Nations/SARC accompanied convoy to Douma delivered food and non-food items to 2,000 people and medicines to 22,600. Owing to security and crowd control concerns at the original agreed distribution point, supplies were offloaded and repackaged at a warehouse run by SARC inside the city to ensure orderly distribution. During the offloading of the first truck, two mortars fell in close proximity of the warehouse. Soon after, the warehouse was hit again, resulting in the death of several people and the injury of eight people, including one SARC driver who sustained injuries due to the blast.
- Two inter-agency convoys were requested but did not take place during the reporting period:
  - On 25 May, an inter-agency convoy to Adraa Balad and Adraa Omalieh, Rif Dimashq, carrying emergency supplies including food, non-food items, hygiene materials and medicines for 600 families (300 in Adraa Balad and 300 in Adraa Omalieh) did not take place owing to security concerns, including the attack on the convoy in Douma on 24 May. Although originally scheduled for 5 April, the mission was postponed until 25 May owing to the delay in obtaining authorization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Rural west Hama: no feedback was received from the Governor of Hama on the request submitted by the United Nations hub in Homs on 22 April and the reminder letter sent on 15 May to conduct a mission to rural west Hama. The United Nations hub in Homs conducted a mission to Hama on 28 May to follow up with the governor.

Besieged areas

- 241,000 people remain besieged in total.
- During the reporting period, food assistance was delivered to 2,467 people, or 1 per cent of people in besieged areas, and non-food items to 17,204, or 7 per cent of people in besieged areas.

- UNICEF provided nutritional assistance to 3,600 beneficiaries in Douma, and WHO delivered medicines for 22,600 people in Douma.
- UNRWA delivered 350 food parcels and hygiene kits for 15,204 people to Yarmouk. Authorities continued to refuse to authorize UNRWA to dispatch and distribute medical supplies, with the exception of small amounts of rehydration salts, mineral supplements, vitamins and polio vaccines.

Cross-border assistance

From Turkey

- According to the Turkish Red Crescent Society, humanitarian actors have channelled about $23 million worth of humanitarian assistance on average monthly from Turkey to the Syrian Arab Republic through the zero-point delivery system administered by the Turkish Red Crescent Society. This monthly average does not include assistance delivered through commercial or other channels.

From Jordan

- The Al Naseeb border crossing between Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic remained open for the transportation of relief items during the reporting period, although insecurity continued to prevent direct cross-line deliveries of relief items from As Sweida to Dar'a governorate.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR submitted 38 official requests for importation of core relief items, with 37 approved and 1 pending. In 2014, approved requests have resulted in 461 UNHCR trucks entering the Syrian Arab Republic from Jordan.
- UNICEF imported sodium hydrochloride and kits for newborn babies through 29 trucks entering from Jordan.

From Lebanon

- The Masna and Al Arida border crossings between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic remained open for the transportation of relief items during the reporting period.
- UNHCR submitted 17 requests to transport core relief items, medicine and telecommunications and security equipment across the Lebanese border, with 13 approved. Four requests, related to telecommunications and security equipment, remain outstanding.
- UNICEF imported various shipments through Lebanon, including polio vaccines, cold chains and medical supplies.
- It is estimated that other humanitarian actors transport relatively small amounts of assistance from Lebanon to the Syrian Arab Republic through other channels. Items coming from Lebanon tend to be less voluminous (medicines, information technology equipment and security equipment) and often do not require individual trucks, and enter the country by courier service.

From Iraq

- The United Nations has requested the use of the Al Yaroubiyeh crossing between Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic for the importation of relief items. Initial approval to transport items through the crossing was received in November 2013; however, the approval remains conditional on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regaining control of the crossing from PYD.

Safety of humanitarian workers

- On 12 June, five mortars impacted near the UNRWA Aleppo area office. There were no reports of staff injured or property damaged.
- On 6 June, SARC reported the death of a SARC volunteer after the shelling of a project office in Ar Rastan.
- On 4 June, one national staff member reported minor property damage following mortar incidents in Abou Roumaneh in Damascus city.
- On 3 June, several mortar incidents around Damascus city led to minor property damage to two national staff houses in Al Maliky and in Pakistan Street.
- On 27 May, a fact-finding mission-Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons/United Nations Department of Safety and Security convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device on the road to Kfar Zita near Taybet el-Imam town in Hama governorate. The driver of the vehicle received minor injuries. A second vehicle was impacted by small arms fire with minor damage.
- On 25 May, a few stray bullets landed in the vicinity of the UNHCR office in Kfar Souseh, with some bullets hitting the inside of the building. No injuries were reported.
- On 24 May, a warehouse run by SARC in Douma was targeted while the United Nations team was present in Douma town, killing several, and injuring a SARC driver.
- On 22 May, one UNRWA staff member received minor injuries following shelling on Khan Dannoun.
- 28 United Nations national staff members continue to be detained or missing (27 from UNRWA are detained or missing and one from UNDP is detained).
- Syrian humanitarian workers continued to face a number of risks, including summary executions, kidnappings, arrests, violence and harassment. In addition to the one SARC volunteer having been killed during the reporting period, SARC also confirmed the death of two volunteers from incidents that occurred in April. The total number of humanitarian workers killed since March 2011 is 59. This includes 14 United Nations staff members, 37 SARC staff members and volunteers, 7 Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff members and 1 international NGO staff member.

Declaration of Commitment on Compliance with International Humanitarian Law and the Facilitation of Humanitarian Assistance

- A total of eight armed opposition groups have signed the Declaration of Commitment, affirming their core responsibilities under international humanitarian law and of their commitment to facilitate action to meet the needs of civilians on the basis of need alone. Of the eight signatories, six groups signed during the reporting period:
  - Mujahadeen Army: signed 7 June
  - Idlib Military Council: signed 5 June
  - 101st Infantry Division: signed 5 June
  - Fursan al-Haqq (Idlib): signed 5 June
  - Hizm Movement: signed 27 May
  - Jabhat al-Asali wa al-Tanmiya: signed 21 May
  - Syria Revolutionaries Front: signed 14 April
  - PYD: signed 23 April

3. Safe passage of medical personnel and supplies

Attacks on medical facilities during the reporting period

- On 7 June, Bab al-Hawa hospital in Harim, Idlib, was targeted by two rockets. No casualties or damage were reported.
- On 4 June, one mortar landed near Badie Amouda Hospital in the Abu Roumaneh neighbourhood in Damascus. No casualties or damage were reported.

Removal of medicines and medical supplies from convoys

- During the reporting period, medicines and medical equipment for approximately 57,000 people in hard-to-reach areas was removed from WHO convoys owing to lack of approval, removal, or diversion of supplies. This included:
  - Surgical items for 27,346 beneficiaries and critical medicines for another 27,435 to Douma on 24 May.
  - Medicines for 2,116 people in Ar Rastan, Homs. Many of the same medicines were permitted to the Government-controlled areas Akradisneh and Ein el-Nisr on the same day.

Polio vaccination campaign

- As at 9 June 2014, there were 36 confirmed cases of polio.
- Final results for the sixth country-wide polio vaccination campaign (4-8 May) indicated that over 2.8 million children under five were reached in all 14 governorates. The lowest reported coverage, in Rif Dimashq (86.4 per cent) and Deir ez-Zor (75.4 per cent), was due to the deteriorating security situations

in those governorates. The overall coverage was 97.4 per cent. The next polio round, which commenced on 15 June and will last until 19 June, targets 2.9 million children, with the results expected during the next reporting period.

Measles vaccination campaign

- During the reporting period, the Ministry of Health confirmed a measles outbreak in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 160 cases in eight governorates: Deir ez-Zor, Ar Raqqah, Ladhiqiyah, Homs, Idlib, Aleppo, Hama and Al Hasakeh. In total, over 2,000 suspected cases of measles have been reported in the first half of 2014, double the number of reported cases for the whole of 2013.

- A measles vaccination campaign led by the Ministry of Health will run from 15 to 26 June, which is aimed at reaching between 700,000 and 1 million children aged between 6 months and 10 years. The measles campaign aims to reach high-risk districts in Aleppo, Idlib, Ar Raqqah, Deir ez-Zor, Al-Hasakeh, Rif Dimashq, Homs, and Ladhiqiyah. UNICEF imported over 1.3 million doses of the measles vaccine on 29 May and delivered 6.5 million doses of vitamin A to the Ministry of Health to be used during the campaign.

4. Administrative hurdles

Clearance procedures for convoys

- On 27 April, the Government communicated a new procedure for unaccompanied truck clearance, whereby trucks are "sealed" at warehouses and not searched at checkpoints. The new measure improved the security of the cargo, but a lack of clarity by security forces resulted in significant delays throughout May and June.

- On 22 May, Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued new instructions that each organization needs to submit a further facilitation letter for each truck to the governor in the governorate where the warehouses are located.

- On 29 May, a new procedure for the importation of goods was issued. The new procedure includes the introduction of a facilitation letter, as for the sealing procedure for trucks, as well as approval from the local governor and weekly importation/loading plans.

- On 9 June, the Ministry of Social Affairs communicated to governors that all convoys or missions to "hot spot areas" (that is, cross-line locations) now require the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Relief Committee and the National Security Office. Previously, the governors were delegated to authorize and coordinate delivery of assistance within their governorates, including across conflict lines, in areas where hubs are approved. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has indicated its intent to require the United Nations to provide comprehensive monthly implementation plans for discussion.

Clearance procedures for telecommunications equipment

- Although Government approvals to import and operate information and communications technology equipment remain a lengthy process, UNHCR has obtained approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for all requested items, including VHF radios, VSAT for Qamishli and some information technology equipment. The only exception is for Thuraya handheld satellite phones. UNHCR has submitted the required supporting documentation to obtain licenses for the Thuraya phones, including the list of staff that will be using them; however, final approval has yet to be received.

Empowered interlocutors

- Government of the Syrian Arab Republic: The joint United Nations and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic working group established following the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014) includes a security focal point. Regular meetings are taking place between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Humanitarian Coordinator on an almost daily basis.
- The opposition is still unable to designate empowered interlocutors. The fragmented nature of the opposition makes it difficult to have a clear identified interlocutor for armed opposition groups. Ad hoc local engagement is ongoing to negotiate access. Interlocutors vary depending on the localities where access is being negotiated.

Visas

- The revised visa policy established by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on 4 March continued to be implemented. As at 11 June, a total of 82 United Nations visas or renewal requests remained pending, 40 within the 15 working day limit and 42 exceeding the 15 working days. There has been no progress in obtaining visas for international NGO staff, with 13 visa requests still pending.

Humanitarian hubs and presence

- UNHCR opened an office at the Qamishli hub.
- The Aleppo hub is still operating and is currently staffed with international and national staff.
- The Government has approved As Sweida as a hub; however, approval is still pending for the request to establish a hub in Dar'a.
- UNICEF established a warehouse in Ladhiqiyah governorate during the last week of May. The strategic location of the warehouse will ease the dispatch of supplies to governorates covered under the Tartous, Homs and Aleppo hubs.

International NGO partners

- No new international NGOs requested approval to work in the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period.
- The number of international NGOs approved to work in the Syrian Arab Republic stands at 16.

- International NGOs are still not authorized to work directly with national NGOs and are not allowed to accompany United Nations convoys to the field.
- There was no progress during the reporting period on the revision of the standard memorandum of understanding for international NGOs with SARC and line ministries.

National NGO partners

- The overall number of national NGOs authorized to partner directly with United Nations agencies increased to 85, operating through 142 national branches.
- During the reporting period, two new national NGOs were approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to partner with United Nations organizations: one in Damascus governorate and one in Homs governorate.
- One national NGO in Tartous was excluded from relief work with United Nations agencies and international organizations during the reporting period.

5. Funding

- $381.1 million of funding for the Syrian crisis was registered during the reporting period. Of that amount, $208.6 million was for activities inside the Syrian Arab Republic and $172.5 million was for support to Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Of the total amount reported for the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, 20 per cent ($42.4 million) was for activities included in the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. For neighbouring countries, 94 per cent ($162.2 million) of the amount reported was for activities included in the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan.
- As at 17 June, the total funding for the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 29 per cent ($6.5 billion requested, $1.9 billion received) with the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan 26 per cent funded and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan 31 per cent funded.

6. Overview of United Nations humanitarian response

Food assistance

- In the May 2014 dispatch cycle, WFP dispatched food in support of nearly 3.3 million people across all 14 governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic. Inter-agency convoys to rural parts of Homs (Ar Rastan and Akradisneh), Douma in Rif Dimashq and Aleppo facilitated the delivery of food rations in support of 88,750 people. However, the total food dispatch for May represented a 14 per cent decrease compared to the April cycle when food was dispatched in support of over 3.8 million beneficiaries. Food dispatches experienced significant delays in May owing to continued insecurity and the new Government convoy procedures. For example, in Ar Raqqah and Deir ez-Zor, only 30 and 8 per cent of the dispatch plan was achieved, respectively, in

May, owing to continued insecurity. However, for Ar Raqqah, this was an improvement in access compared to April, when none of the planned assistance reached the governorate.

- In June, with implementation of the new transport facilitation system still under development, food dispatches continued at a slower pace. By 15 June, only 25 per cent of the WFP food dispatch plan was achieved, representing a 10 per cent decline from the same period in April.

Core relief items and shelter

- UNHCR has distributed over 8.1 million core relief items to over 2.2 million beneficiaries in 13 out of the 14 governorates since the beginning of 2014.
- UNHCR upgraded private shelters for 20,983 beneficiaries in Homs, Rif Dimashq and Aleppo governorates. In addition, UNHCR completed the shelter rehabilitation of collective shelters in six governorates, benefitting 7,780 people.

Health

- WHO delivered antibiotics and medical equipment, including six water purification units, for over 286,817 people in the hard-to-reach area of Deir ez-Zor.
- WHO, in support of Syrian Arab Red Crescent and local health authorities, delivered medical supplies for 138,145 people in Aleppo and medical supplies and medicines to over 22,600 people in the besieged areas of Douma.
- WHO distributed intravenous fluids for 76,401 beneficiaries in health facilities in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Ladhiqiyah, As Sweida and Tartous governorates; and medicines and supplies for 48,270 people in Ar Rastan, Akradisneh and Ein el-Nisr in Homs.
- UNFPA supported 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics and 13 medical points operated by partners in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Ar Raqqah and Hama governorates to provide life-saving reproductive health services to 71,032 women and men.

Nutrition

- UNICEF provided High Energy Biscuits and plumpy doze for treatment of moderate malnutrition for 3,000 children in Ar Rastan, Homs, and 3,600 children in Douma.
- A rapid nutrition survey of conflict-affected children was completed in all 14 governorates except Ar Raqqah and Al Hasakeh. The Ministry of Health has received the survey data from most locations, including hard-to-reach areas, such as Kiswah and Qusaya in Rif Dimashq and Sulaymaniyah in Aleppo. Preliminary results are expected in the next reporting period.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- UNICEF interventions enabled access to clean water to some 16.5 million people in all 14 governorates through the provision of chlorine, with 43 per cent (6.6 million people) of them in non-government-controlled areas.
- UNICEF reached 20,680 people with water, sanitation and hygiene support in Al Hasakeh and 16,500 in Idlib governorates, including hard-to-reach areas.
- The United Nations Population Fund distributed 11,884 female and 6,500 male dignity kits to affected people.

Education

- UNICEF, along with the Directorate of Education, distributed 11,905 school bags to Al Hasakeh city and 8,071 to Qamishli, both hard-to-reach areas, assisting 19,976 children.
- In Al Waer, three prefabricated classrooms were delivered to one school in the area. To date, 15 prefabricated classrooms have been installed in Al Waer schools, providing a protected learning environment to 1,200 children.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF, through its partner Action Against Hunger, completed light rehabilitation and hygiene awareness activities for 14 schools in Al Hasakeh city, benefitting 11,833 children.

Palestine refugees

- UNRWA provided food to 19,500 people, cash assistance to 58,551 people, 77,357 health consultations and 422 microfinance loans.
- UNRWA participated in the WHO-led campaign to vaccinate or revaccinate all children against polio in the Syrian Arab Republic, which covered 65 per cent of at-risk Palestine refugees. Vaccination rates among Palestine refugees for polio were already high (99 per cent coverage).

Agriculture

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided agricultural support to 18,081 beneficiaries (2,583 households); 14,399 beneficiaries (2,057 households) in Rif Dimashq, Idlib and Hama governorates received animal feed and 3,682 beneficiaries (562 households) in Rif Dimashq governorate received poultry packages.
- FAO and SARC finalized arrangements for the transportation and distribution of seeds to Ar Raqqah governorate for storage and planting during the upcoming planting season.

Protection and community services

- UNHCR continued to extend community and protection services support through field staff in 7 key locations, 11 community centres, partnerships with international and local NGOs and more than 200 community outreach volunteers. On 21 May, the Governor of Homs granted UNHCR access to Al Andalus Processing Facility for the first time since April. The facility currently accommodates 350 individuals, the majority of whom were evacuated from the Old City of Homs.
- UNHCR recently launched a legal aid programme for internally displaced persons in Tartous in cooperation with the Syrian Society for Social Development and the Danish Refugee Council.
- UNICEF reached 12,385 children with essential psychosocial support services provided through partners in Hama, Quneitra, Aleppo, Tartous, Homs, Ladhiqiyah and Damascus governorates. This included support to 1,437 children in Al Waer, a hard-to-reach area in Homs governorate, through a new local partner NGO.
- UNHCR provides assistance to the approximately 35,000 registered refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic, the majority from Iraq.